

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUANDA 00970 131225Z

44

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01 EB-04 COME-00 SCS-03 SCA-01

OPR-01 SY-04 SCCT-01 AID-05 OMB-01 CIEP-01 /094 W

----- 090173

R 130840Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3054

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 970

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS AO MILI

SUBJ: ASSESSMENT OF RECENT WAVE OF VIOLENCE IN LUANDA

REF: LUANDA 960

1. SUMMARY. MPLA HOTHEADS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR A GREAT DEAL OF THE VIOLENCE IN LUANDA ON NOVEMBER TEN. BY NOVEMBER TWELVE THE CITY WAS RELATIVELY QUIET. THE ARMY NO LONGER CAN RELY ON BLACK ANGOLAN TROOPS AND PLANS TO SET UP ALL-PORTUGUESE UNITS. THE FNLA USED ITS TROOPS BRIEFLY TO PATROL, BUT STOPPED AT THE REQUEST OF THE ANGOLAN JUNTA. TENSION IS HIGH AMONG AMERICANS AND ONE FIRM HAS MOVED OUT SOME OF ITS PERSONNEL. EVACUATION NOT YET NECESSARY. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUANDA 00970 131225Z

2. WE HAVE TALKED WITH A NUMBER OF OFFICIALS AND CIVILIANS IN AN EFFORT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE VIOLENCE THAT TOOK FIFTY LIVES ON NOVEMBER TEN. THERE SEEMS TO BE A CONSENSUS THAT MUCH OF THE TROUBLE STARTED WHEN MPLA ACTIVISTS BECAME ENRAGED OVER THE ACTIVITIES OF FNLA AND UNITA IN LUANDA, MPLA'S STRONGEST BASE AND LONG CONSIDERED TO BE THE PRESERVE OF AGOSTINHO NETO. THE UNITA DELEGATION THAT ARRIVED AT THE AIRPORT ON NOVEMBER TEN WAS MET BY A LARGE GROUP THAT INCLUDED FNLA REPRESENTATIVES AND MANY WHITES. THE ENTIRE GROUP THEN PARADED THROUGH THE CITY. ABOUT ELEVEN LOOSELY ORGANIZED "COMMITTEES" OR GROUPS OF MPLA ACTIVISTS TOOK IT UPON THEMSELVES TO MAKE A SHOW OF FORCE AND TEACH THE INTRUDERS A LESSON.

3. ACCORDING TO HERMINIO ESCORCIO, HEAD OF THE MPLA LUANDA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, THESE GROUPS ACTED WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. IT IS A FACT, HOWEVER, THAT THE MPLA DELEGATION THAT ARRIVED IN LUANDA ON NOVEMBER EIGHT HEADED BY LUCIO LARA HAS ADAMANTLY REFUSED TO COOPERATE WITH ANYONE ON ANY ISSUE. A JUNTA MEMBER TOLD ME THAT LARA ABSOLUTELY REFUSES TO TALK WITH THE OTHER LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND INSISTS ON THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP AND SEVENTY PER CENT OF ALL POSITIONS FOR MPLA IN THE FUTURE COALITION GOVERNMENT. THIS ATTITUDE CANNOT BUT HAVE INFLUENCED MPLA HOT-HEADS TO PUT A LITTLE MUSCLE INTO MPLA INTRANSIGENCE. ANOTHER IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE "UNAUTHORIZED DECISION TO TAKE ACTION" WAS THAT MPLA HAS MANAGED DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS TO INFILTRATE ARMS AND AMMUNITION INTO LUANDA GHETTOS AND THESE HAVE BEEN HANDED OUT INDISCRIMINATELY TO PERSON WITH NO TRAINING.

4. THE VIOLENCE ON NOVEMBER TEN WAS, IN A SENSE, A CONTINUATION OF INCIDENTS THAT BEGAN ON NOVEMBER FIVE (LUANDA 951). THE MPLA CONTRIBUTION WAS TO INCREASE ITS INTENSITY. THE VICTIMS WERE ALMOST ALL TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY, BLACKS AND WHITES. GRENADES WERE WIDELY USED AND MANY OF THE DEAD AND WOUNDED WERE BADLY MUTILATED. SOME PEOPLE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE CHAOS TO SETTLE OLD SCORES. AS WAS TO BE EXPECTED, CRIMINALS MOVED QUICKLY TO MURDER AND LOOT.

5. HERMINIO ESCORCIO TOLD FRIENDS ON NOVEMBER ELEVEN THAT THE HOT-HEADS WERE BEING BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL AND THAT HE EXPECTED THINGS TO RETURN TO NORMAL WITHIN A DAY OR TWO. SOME INCIDENTS TOOK PLACE ON NOVEMBER ELEVEN AND BY NOVEMBER TWELVE SHOOTOUTS, ARSON AND LOOTING WAS MUCH REDUCED IN INTENSITY. THE ARMY HAS RESTRICTED MOVEMENTS TO AND FROM THOSE AREAS OF THE CITY WHERE VIOLENCE HAS BEEN MOST PREVALENT, ESPECIALLY THE NORTHEASTERN QUADRANT WHICH HAS LONG BEEN A TROUBLE SPOT AND WHICH WAS THE SCENE OF MOST OF THE SLAUGHTER ON NOVEMBER TEN.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUANDA 00970 131225Z

MENT TO AND FROM THOSE AREAS OF THE CITY WHERE VIOLENCE HAS BEEN MOST PREVALENT, ESPECIALLY THE NORTHEASTERN QUADRANT WHICH HAS LONG BEEN A TROUBLE SPOT AND WHICH WAS THE SCENE OF MOST OF THE SLAUGHTER ON NOVEMBER TEN.

6. FNLA DECIDED DURING THE VIOLENCE TO ADOPT A LAW AND ORDER POSE AND TO USE ITS TROOPS TO PATROL AND CALM BLACK AREAS. FNLA HAS TWICE SAID PUBLICLY THAT IT COULD BRING IN 10,000 MEN TO LUANDA

WITHIN 24 HOURS TO ASSIST THE ARMY IN MAINTAINING ORDER, BUT THE ARMY HAS DECLINED THE FAVOR. DURING ONE SERIOUS INCIDENT, WHERE BLACKS WERE BURNING DOWN SOME HOMES IN A WHITE NEIGHBORHOOD, CITIZENS CALLED ON FNLA TO SEND TROOPS. THEY DID SO, BUT HENDRIK VAAL NETO, THE HEAD OF THE FNLA DELEGATION IN LUANDA, ACCOMPANIED THE TROOPS AND WOULD NOT PERMIT THEM TO INTERVENE, REPORTEDLY SAYING THAT HE WAS "SHOCKED" BY THE ACTS OF THE AGITATORS BUT THAT FNLA "DID NOT HAVE PERMISSION FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN ORDER." THE BACKGROUND TO THIS VIGNETTE IS THAT ON NOVEMBER ELEVEN THE JUNTA ASKED VAAL NETO NOT TO SEND FNLA TROOPS OUT ON PATROL. ACCORDING TO THE JUNTA, ABOUT 60 OR 70 FNLA TROOPS WERE ON PATROL DUTY AND AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF OTHERS WERE PROCEEDING TO LUANDA FROM FNLA BASES IN THE DEMBOS. VAAL NETO ACCEDED TO THE REQUEST, BUT IS NOW MAKING A SHOW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S INABILITY TO DO THE JOB BY ITSELF.

7. THE FNLA HAS SUCCEEDED IN INFILTRATING NOT ONLY ARMS TO LUANDA, BUT TRAINED GUERRILLAS TO USE THEM. THIS IS A RELATIVELY EASY TASK FOR FNLA, WHICH HAS 6,000 ARMED MEN IN THE DEMBOS AREA BETWEEN LUANDA AND CARMONA. BY DRESSING IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES AND TAKING A BUS THEY CAN SEND TROOPS INTO THE CITY. ARMS CAN COME IN HIDDEN IN TRUCKS, WHICH ARE SELDOM SEARCHED. NO ONE SEEMS TO KNOW THE NUMBER OF EFFECTIVES THAT FNLA HAS IN LUANDA BUT ONE SOURCE FELT IT WAS ABOUT 200, WITH MORE ENROUTE.

8. ONE OF THE KEY FACTORS IN THE ABILITY OF THE AUTHORITIES TO MAINTAIN ORDER IS THE WILL OF THE PORTUGUESE ARMY TO FIGHT. THE POPULAR BELIEF IS THAT THE WILL NO LONGER EXISTS. GENERAL CARDOSO TOLD ME THE PROBLEM IS THAT ANGOLAN SOLDIERS, WHO COMPRISE 50 PER CENT OF THE ARMY AND 90 PER CENT OF WHOM ARE BLACK, WILL NO LONGER TAKE AGGRESSIVE ACTION. AS MOST UNITS ARE MIXED PORTUGUESE AND ANGOLANS, THE PORTUGUESE TROOPS REFUSE TO SHOOT WHEN THEIR ANGOLAN BUDDIES

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 LUANDA 00970 131225Z

WILL NOT DO SO. THE ARMY HIGH COMMAND HAS NOW DECIDED TO PUT TOGETHER ENTIRELY PORTUGUESE UNITS TO IMPROVE RELIABILITY. ACCORDING TO CARDOSO, THE PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS HAVE PLENTY OF SPIRIT AND SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO THE JOB.

9. THE VIOLENCE HAS RAISED THE LEVEL OF TENSION AMONG AMERICANS HERE. ONE FIRM, READING AND BATES, A TEXACO CONTRACTOR, HAS DECIDED TO MOVE SEVEN EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES TO JOHANNESBURG. FOUR OTHER EMPLOYEES AND FAMILIES WILL REMAIN IN LUANDA. THE CABINDA GULF OIL COMPANY MANAGER TOLD ME ON NOVEMBER ELEVEN THAT HIS HEADQUARTERS HAD INSISTED THAT HE PUT THE COMPANY ON A STATE OF ALERT AND PRESSED HIM FOR A RAPID DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO EVACUATE DEPENDENTS. UPON MY ARRIVAL IN LUANDA I INSTITUTED PERIODIC MEETINGS WITH THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO DISCUSS INTERNAL SECURITY MATTERS AND EMERGENCY AND EVACUATION PLANS. I

WILL MEET WITH THE GROUP ON NOVEMBER THIRTEEN AND REVIEW THE PRESENT SITUATION AND PROSPECTS FOR RELATIVE ORDER AND STABILITY IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. AT THIS MOMENT I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT EVACUATION IS WARRANTED. PERSONAL SECURITY IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM; ROBBERY, MUGGING AND VANDALISM ARE RAMPANT AND MOST PEOPLE ARE STAYING CLOSE TO HOME.

11. A SIEGE COMPLEX BEGAN TO TAKE OVER LUANDA THE PAST TWO DAYS AND MANY PEOPLE ARE HORDING FOOD AND SUPPLIES. TRUCKERS WHO NORMALLY BRING IN GOODS FROM THE INTERIOR REFUSED TO MOVE THEIR TRUCKS ON NOVEMBER NINE UNTIL THE AUTHORITIES CONTROLLED GANGS OF ROCK THROWING YOUTHS AND OCCASIONAL SNIPERS WHO HAVE BEEN TERRORIZING THE TRUCKERS BETWEEN LUANDA AND DONDO, ABOUT ONE HUNDRED MILES TO THE EAST. BY NOVEMBER TWELVE THE GOVERNMENT HAD PROMISED TO BEEF UP PATROLS ON THE ROAD AND THR TRUCKERS ABANDONED THEIR STRIKE.

12. MOST OF THE REST OF ANGOLA IS CALM. ACCORDING TO ANGOLEN BUSINESSMEN WITH CONTACTS IN THE SOUTH AND CENTRAL REGIONS OF THE PROVINCE, THERE HAS BEEN NO TROUBLE OF ANY KIND. IN THE EAST, AROUND MALANGE, AND IN THE NORTH, TROUBLE BETWEEN BLACKS AND WHITES CONTINUES.

KILLORAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LUANDA00970
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740327-0316
From: LUANDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741148/aaaabodm.tel
Line Count: 191
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LUANDA 960
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 MAY 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSESSMENT OF RECENT WAVE OF VIOLENCE IN LUANDA
TAGS: PINS, MILI, AO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005